

VLR-12/19/78 NRHP-5/21/79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Flat Rock
AND/OR COMMON Flat Rock

2 LOCATION

North side Rt. 655 west of intersection with Route 637

STREET & NUMBER

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Kenbridge

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fifth (W. C. Daniel)

STATE

Virginia

CODE

51

COUNTY

Lunenburg

CODE

111

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Bagley Reid

STREET & NUMBER

Box 212

CITY, TOWN

Fishers Island

VICINITY OF

STATE

New York 06390

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Lunenburg County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Lunenburg

STATE

Virginia 23952

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2) (See Continuation Sheet #1)

TITLE

(1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE

1958

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Flat Rock is a large frame farmhouse built in several sections during the first half of the 19th century and set upon a hill overlooking the rolling hills south of Kenbridge in Lunenburg County. Near the house are an early outbuilding, the remains of another, and an interesting mid-19th-century monument.

As it now stands, the house is a two-story, three-bay structure flanked by one-story, one-bay wings. The building is clad with beaded weatherboards and has 6/6 sash set in its plain window frames. A late 19th- or early 20th-century, gable-roofed porch, which now lacks its columns, shelters the front of the house, and the whole is set upon a granite rubble underpinning which was covered with scored stucco at the time of the last enlargement. Two massive exterior end chimneys flank the main block. They are granite to the height of the eaves and brick above. Reworked during the third phase of construction, they are now topped by three and four hexagonal brick stacks, respectively, at the west and east ends. Each of the three sections is covered with a gable roof embellished at the eaves with a plain box cornice.

The plan of Flat Rock is a simple one. The central section incorporates the traditional I-house plan of a single room to either side of a central stair passage, and there is one room in each wing. The house was built in three stages. The first part was a two-story, single-pile, side-passage or hall-parlor house, built in the late 18th century. It comprises the passage and west room of the present structure. Just before 1820 the east room on the first floor was added. Around 1856 the second-story east room was added, along with the wings, and the chimney stacks were remodeled to their present forms.

The woodwork in the house is plain but well-crafted. All of the first-floor rooms reflect changes made during the various alterations. The original (west) room of the main block has a mantel dating from the first remodeling. It consists of coupled Tuscan colonettes supporting a frieze with plain entablature blocks and tablet and supported by a molded shelf with a dentil cornice. A pedestal chair rail encircles the room. A change in the base molding of the chair rail on the rear wall suggests that there may originally have been an exterior door there and that the original house may have been a hall-parlor house, rather than a side-passage one.

In the passage is a double-beaded chair board and a double-beaded peg board. There is an early enclosed stair in the northwest corner and a later one in the southeast corner providing access to the later second-floor east room.

The east room of the first floor shows evidence of many changes. When the wings were added, there was a wall built flush with the former projecting chimney breast in order to provide closets at the chimney end of the room. Recessed-panel wainscoting encircles the room; differing moldings at different sections suggest that a stair to the loft over this room, when it was a one-story wing (roughly during the second quarter of the 19th century), may have risen in the southwest corner of the room. This room retains its original mantel, which consists of a plain architrave frame supporting unadorned entablature blocks and a central tablet, capped by a molded shelf.

In each of the wings and in the second-floor east rooms, plain Greek Revival mantels with unadorned pilasters and friezes are used. In the latter room, there are a double-beaded chairboard and pegboard, and the paint is apparently original. The chair rail and window frames are pink and the baseboard and mantel are black, as are the stiles and rails of the vertical-panel, applied-mold Greek Revival door, which has mustard-colored panels.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES late 18th; 1819; 1856 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Flat Rock, is a large but unpretentious plantation of significance to the study of vernacular building in Southside Virginia. The main house was built in the late 18th century--unusually early for the locality--as a two-story, side-passage or hall-parlor house. Enlarged twice, it has in the process incorporated several popular decorative styles and a succession of plan types traditional in the area. The sets of hexagonal chimney stacks atop each chimney are a distinctive feature of the house. A noteworthy signed mid-19th-century monument, a smokehouse of plank construction, and a large, granite-lined icehouse pit all contribute further interest to the property.

In its earliest years, Flat Rock was the home of the Chambers family. Thomas Chambers, the first of the name to settle in the vicinity, came to the county in the mid-18th century. He later served as a vestryman of Cumberland Parish, county justice, and county sheriff. When he died in 1798, his eldest son and heir, Edward Chambers, was already an established landowner.

One of Thomas Chambers's tenants, James Hooper, had bought the farm on which he lived from Chambers in 1795. Two years later Edward Chambers bought it back from Hooper, with 50 additional acres. Since Hooper has paid 50 pounds for the farm while Edward Chambers bought it, with only a third more acreage, for 600 pounds, it is reasonable to assume that the present house was begun the two ensuing years. The second period of construction was undertaken much later in Edward Chambers's life. The 1820 land tax books note a \$3000 increase in valuation, improvements to the dwelling house accounting for \$1000 of the increase.

Edward Chambers died before 1828. One of his children, Henry, became a U. S. Senator from Alabama in 1825. Another son, Edward R. Chambers, later became a successful lawyer and professor at Randolph Macon College. Senator Chambers is buried at Flat Rock, where he died while visiting en route to Washington. Edward R. Chambers was disinherited by his father--indeed dispossessed of Flat Rock which had been given him in 1825--due to youthful financial irresponsibility.

The plantation was sold to Edward Chambers's daughter, Ann Craig, by his executors. She sold the property to Peter V. Street in 1840. After the latter's death (ca. 1850) Flat Rock was occupied by Robert S. Bagley, to whom the court awarded ownership in 1855. The final alterations to Flat Rock, were apparently made during Bagley's tenure, the building valuation being increased by \$150 in 1857.

Flat Rock is currently being renovated by Bagley Reid.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Flat Rock, Lunenburg County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 6,7 PAGE 1

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
1968, 1978 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

7. DESCRIPTION

In the second-floor west room of the main block, the earliest surviving trim in the building gives the best indication of the house's late 18th-century date. The fireplace is surrounded by an architrave frame with single crossettes and is surmounted by an elaborately flared and molded shelf with a dentil base mold set atop a narrow pulvinated frieze. Flanking the fireplace are two wide open cupboards whose original shelf brackets are attached with wrought nails. Below these cupboards are narrower closets with doors of a single raised panel each. A later pedestal chair rail encircles the room, and an enclosed stair in the northeast corner leads to two finished chambers in the attic.

The cellar plan is similar to the first-floor plan, except that the west room was divided into two parts, with the eastern section stone-floored and whitewashed and a large root cellar excavated in the western portion.

To the northeast of the house stands an early gable-roofed smokehouse of unusual plank construction. The sills, posts, and plates are framed normally, but instead of studs, the walls are infilled with 3-inch-thick planks averaging 21 inches wide, abutting one another and tenoned into the plates and sills. These were originally covered with weatherboards. By the late 19th century the weatherboards had been replaced with thin internal battens to seal the cracks between the planks. Now, the house is covered with corrugated sheet metal. Due west of the house was an early icehouse. A large, square, granite-lined pit remains.

Northwest of the house is a mid-19th-century monument to Henry H. Chambers, M.D. (1790-1826), son of an owner of Flat Rock and later a U.S. Senator from Alabama, who is buried here where he died en route to Washington. This tall marble obelisk, which is decorated with classical forms, is of interest as a rare signed monumental sculpture. It was made by Bowie and Wright of Petersburg and erected in 1859 by his son, Henry C. Chambers of Mississippi.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The register bounds have been drawn as a regular rectangle, bounded on the south by route 655, and encompass all of the buildings mentioned in the report as well as a family cemetery, a traditional feature of Virginia rural life.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Bell, Landon. The Old Free State, Vol. I. Richmond, 1937.
 Lunenburg Co. Deed Books 7, 17, 18, 28, 32, 35.
 Lunenburg Co. Land Tax Books 1782-1865.
 McCullough, Rose Chambers. Yesterday When It Is Past. Richmond, 1957.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4 acres

UTM REFERENCES

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

QUADRANGLE NAME Kenbridge West, Va.

A 17 753890 4091530

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point on N side of State Route 655, 500' W of intersection of State Routes 655 and 637; thence extending 600' W along said side of said route; thence extending 300' N, then 500' E, then 300' S to State Route 655 and point of origin.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

December 1978

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

TELEPHONE

(804) 786-3144

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia 23219

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Tucker Hill, Executive Director
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE DEC 19 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

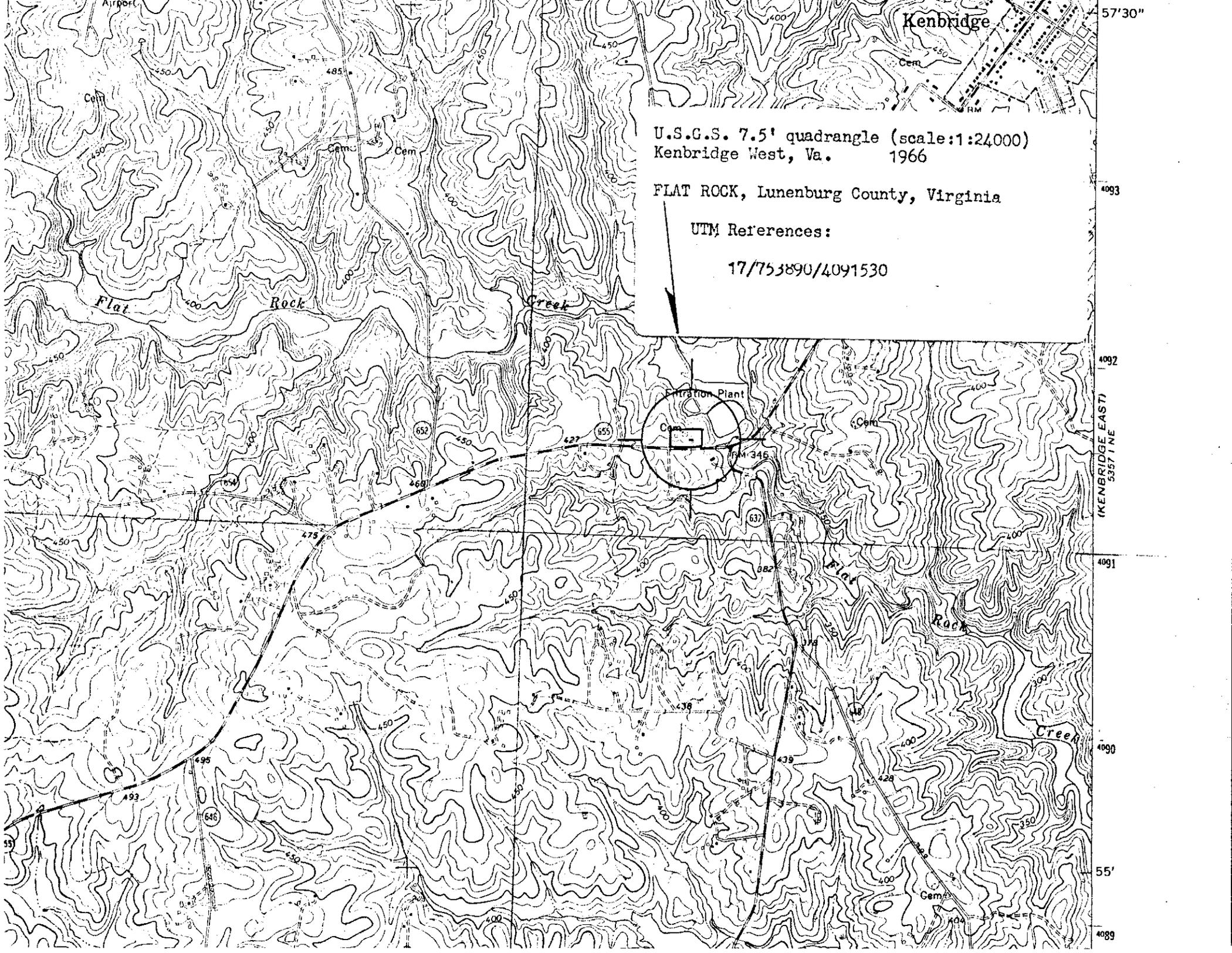
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



U.S.G.S. 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24,000)
Kenbridge West, Va. 1966

FLAT ROCK, Lunenburg County, Virginia

UTM References:

17/753890/4091530

57'30"

4093

4092

4091

4090

55'

4089

(KENBRIDGE EAST)
33571 NE